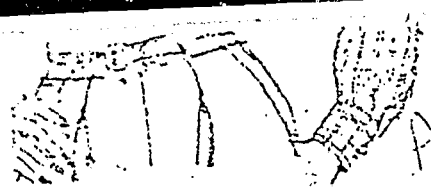

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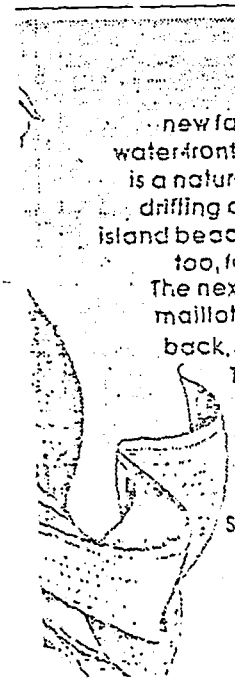

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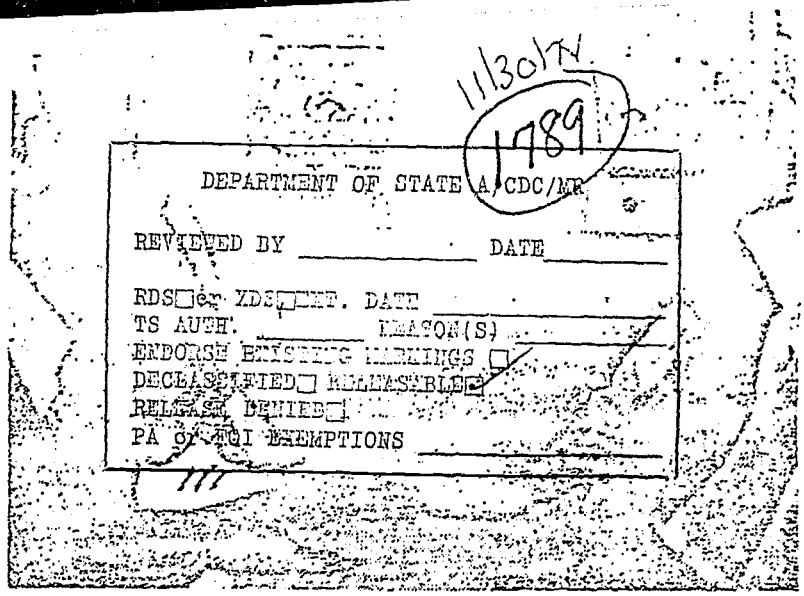

FORMER PRESIDENT AT OXFORD: Richard M. Nixon speaking to members
yesterday. He was received warmly by the group, and he said he would continue

STATE DEPT. CALLED LAX ON MASS DEATHS

Lawyers Say They Sent Warnings on Cult for More Than a Year

By ROBERT LINDSEY
Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 30 — The State Department received explicit warnings for more than a year that the lives of American citizens were in jeopardy at the People's Temple commune in Guyana and that the Guyanese Government had been corrupted by the Rev. Jim Jones, according to two lawyers.

The lawyers, who represented defectors from the sect who were concerned about relatives and friends still loyal to Mr. Jones, said that they had made three visits to the State Department starting in August 1977 and had written numerous letters warning of the situation in Guyana. They said that they had also sought help from United States officials in Guyana but received little response.

Last June 15, the lawyers said, they sent an affidavit to the State Department signed by a defector from the cult, Deborah Layton Blakey, asserting that Mr. Jones was "sick" and was plotting "mass suicide for socialism." She said that she was convinced that "Reverend Jones had sufficient control over the minds of the

Continued on Page A16, Column 4

U.S. Moves to Avei Stemming From 1

By WARREN
Special to The Ne

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 — The Justice Department disclosed today that both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service had been enlisted to prevent violence in this country in the aftermath of the mass deaths in Guyana. Meanwhile, President Carter warned against an overreaction to the Jonestown tragedy.

A Justice Department official said the department was investigating murder threats reportedly made by surviving members of the People's Temple cult and hoped to thwart any possible suicide pacts among cult members, despite an apparent lack of legal authority.

Authoritative sources also disclosed that the Government was investigating an unconfirmed report that 30 to 40 members of the cult had fled the camp and moved toward the Venezuela border. [Page A17.]

Grand Jury Begins Investigation

In California, a Federal grand jury began an inquiry into the possibility that the murders of Representative Leo J. Ryan and members of his party, which preceded the mass deaths, might have been planned by cult members living in the United States. [Page A17.]

President Carter said at a news conference today that it was "unconstitutional for the Government of our country to investigate or to issue laws against any

The New York Times

Laurence Layton with his daughter, Deborah, in San Francisco yesterday. Mr. Layton's son, Larry, is being held in the slaying of Representative Leo J. Ryan and other members of his party at air strip near Jonestown, Guyana.

State Dept. Is Termed Lax on Mass Deaths

Continued From Page A1

residents that it would be possible for him to effect a mass suicide."

The lawyers said that they had received no reply to the warning from the State Department.

"We were shouting into a tunnel," Jeffrey Haas, one of the lawyers, said. "We hold the State Department responsible for the deaths of these people," his colleague, Margaret Ryan, said, referring to the more than 900 members of the commune who committed suicide or were murdered Nov. 18.

In September 1977, they conceded, the State Department, at their request, filed a formal protest to the Guyanese Government complaining of apparent "intervention" by that Government in the country's judicial process in a dispute involving the custody of a child that Mr. Jones contended was his.

But, they asserted, the United States Government did not follow up the matter even after Joseph Freitas, the San Francisco District Attorney, wrote to President Carter and other senior American officials asserting that the rights of American citizens were being suppressed in Guyana in the custody fight.

Seduction and Blackmail

The child, who died in Guyana last week, was the son of a former church member, Grace Stoen, and her husband, Timothy, although Mr. Jones asserted that he had fathered the child.

In an interview, Mrs. Blakey, a former member of Mr. Jones's inner leadership circle, asserted that high officials of the Guyana Government had been compromised by Mr. Jones, who sent female members of the commune to seduce and then blackmail them. She said that one of the highest ranking officials of the Guyanese diplomatic corps had a mistress assigned to him by Mr. Jones.

Mrs. Blakey is the sister of Larry Layton, who is being held in connection with the slaying of Representative Leo J. Ryan, the California Democrat who went to Guyana to investigate the commune.

Mrs. Blakey said that before she left the commune last May 13, she was part of a delegation that made daily visits to the Russian Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana, to negotiate the transfer of the commune to the Soviet Union. She said that the negotiations had proceeded slowly but had been scheduled to accelerate after her departure. She said that the Soviet intelligence agency, the K.G.B., had sent at least one agent to investigate the commune.

Told Not to Go to Press

She asserted that United States officials at the American Embassy in Georgetown were "extremely close" to Mr. Jones, and she said that one of them, Richard McCoy, had told her not to take her assertions of oppression and possible mass suicide to the press.

The warning, she said, came in a telephone conversation with Mr. McCoy after she left the country and he was in Washington.

A few days after the call, she said, she received a letter, apparently from Mr. Jones, that referred to her conversation with Mr. McCoy and threatened her life if she took her complaints to the press.

Mr. McCoy, in a brief telephone interview from Washington, where he is now stationed, acknowledged that he had advised Mrs. Blakey not to go to the press but said that he had done so because going to the press would not be effective in dealing with the problems in Guyana.

He also said that he had told her instead to go to a law enforcement agency. He denied that he had ever told Mr. Jones about his conversation with Mrs. Blakey.

Mr. McCoy said that he could not discuss other charges made by Miss Blakey unless the interview was approved by Hodding Carter, the senior State Department spokesman. Subsequently, Mr. Carter approved a longer interview, but a few minutes later the State Department rescinded the approval and said that Mr. McCoy would not be available to answer questions.

Mrs. Blakey's June 15 affidavit forecasting the possibility of mass suicide was sent to Stephen A. Dobrenchuk, chief of the State Department's emergency and protection services division; Elizabeth A. Powers of the department's special counselor services, and Douglas J. Bennett Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional relations.

The covering letters asserted, "While the State Department has made some contact with American citizens living in Jonestown, its investigation to uncover the actual conditions is inadequate."

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